AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (currently amended): An ink supporter comprising:

an ink permeation member provided at a portion corresponding to a printer head, wherein said ink permeation member is obtained by producing a flexible polyurethane foam from a foamable raw material containing a polyol, an isocyanate, a catalyst, and a foaming agent, wherein said flexible polyurethane foam is impregnated with a surface active agent and said surface active agent is adhered on the surface of said flexible polyurethane foam, said surface agent in an amount of 1 to 500,000 g per 1 m^3 of said polyurethane foam; and

an ink absorbing member being in contact with said ink permeation member, said ink absorbing member is obtained by producing a flexible polyurethane foam from a foamable raw material containing a polyol, an isocyanate, a catalyst, and a foaming agent, and thermally compressing said flexible polyurethane foam at a compression magnification of 5 to 20 times by a hot press.

Claim 18 (original): An ink supporter according to claim 17, wherein said ink absorbing member contains a surface active agent.

Claim 19 (original): An ink supporter according to claim 17, wherein the number of cells of said flexible polyurethane foam for forming said ink absorbing member is in a range of 20 pieces/25 mm or more.

Claim 20 (original): An ink supporter according to claim 19, wherein the number of cells of said flexible polyurethane foam for forming said ink absorbing member is in a range of 40 to 150 pieces/25 mm or more.

Claim 21 (previously presented): An ink supporter according to any one of claims 17 to 20, wherein said ink permeation member is obtained by producing a flexible polyurethane foam from a foamable raw material containing a polyol, an isocyanate, a catalyst, and a foaming agent; dipping said flexible polyurethane foam in water in which a surface active agent is dispersed; and squeezing water from said flexible polyurethane foam thus treated and then drying said flexible polyurethane foam, to make said surface active agent adhere on the surface of said flexible polyurethane foam.

Claim 22 (previously presented): An ink supporter according to any one of claims 17 to 20, wherein the surface active agent of the ink permeation member is a denaturated sodium succinate.

Claim 23 (cancelled).

Claim 24 (previously presented): An ink supporter according to claim 22, wherein said flexible polyurethane foam is impregnated with said denaturated sodium succinate in the amount of 1,000 to 20,000 g per 1 m^3 of said polyurethane foam.

Claim 25 (original): An ink supporter according to any one of claims 17 to 20, wherein said ink absorbing member is formed of a plurality of ink absorbing layers; and

the ink absorbing abilities of said plurality of said ink absorbing layers are set such that said ink absorbing layer located farther from said ink permeation member has a higher ink absorptivity.

Claim 26 (original): An ink supporter according to claim 25, wherein the thermal compression magnifications of said plurality of ink absorbing layers are set such that said ink absorbing layer located farther from said ink permeation member has a higher thermal compression magnification.

Claim 27 (previously presented): An ink supporter according to claim 17, wherin said compression magnification of said flexible polyurethane foam is from 5 to 10 times.

Claim 28 (previously presented): An ink supporter according to claim 17, wherin said compression magnification of said flexible polyurethane foam is from 8 to 10 times.

Claim 29 (previously presented): An ink supporter according to claim 17, wherein said flexible polyurethane foam of the ink permeation member is impregnated with said surface active agent in the amount of 1,000 to 20,000 g per 1 m^3 of said polyurethane foam.

Claim 30 (previously presented): An ink supporter according to claim 17, which is used for the pigment ink.

Claim 31 (previously presented): An ink support according to claim 17, wherein the flexible polyurethane foam in the ink permeation member is impregnated with a surface active agent by dipping the flexible polyurethane foam in water in which a surface active agent is dispersed, squeezing the water from the polyurethane foam thus treated, and drying the polyurethane foam to adhere the surface active agent to the surface of the flexible polyurethane foam.

Claim 32 (currently amended): An ink supporter comprising:

an ink permeation member provided at a portion corresponding to a printer head, wherein said ink permeation member is obtained by producing a flexible polyurethane foam from a foamable raw material containing a polyol, an isocyanate, a catalyst, and a foaming agent,

wherein said flexible polyurethane foam is impregnated with a denaturated sodium succinate and said denaturated sodium succinate is adhered to the surface of said flexible polyurethane, the denaturated sodium succinate in an amount of 1,000 to 20,000 g per 1 m^3 of said polyurethane foam~~,~~; and

an ink absorbing member being in contact with said ink permeation member, said ink absorbing member is obtained by producing a flexible polyurethane foam from a foamable raw material containing a polyol, an isocyanate, a catalyst, and a foaming agent, and thermally compressing said flexible polyurethane foam at a compression magnification of 5 to 20 times by a hot press.